

Work at Kankakee Unit of Arsenal to Cost \$3 Million

An additional \$3 million worth of rehabilitation work is under way at Joliet Arsenal, it was announced by Col. R. B. Currens, Arsenal Commander, and Col. R. P. Kline, Chicago District Engineer.

All of the work will be done at the Kankakee Unit of the Arsenal. The Kankakee Unit is operated by the U. S. Rubber Company for the Army Ordnance Corps in the manufacture of high explosives used in the nation's ammunition program.

About half of the \$3 million will be expended for the rehabilitation of Acid Area No. 2, which has been in standby since the end of World War II. Here nitric acid is made, and nitric and sulfuric acids are concentrated. Both these acids are components of TNT and tetryl which are used in artillery shells, bombs, etc.

ANOTHER \$700,000 will be used to renovate three additional tetryl lines and their supporting facilities, and to modernize other tetryl lines which have been operating since early last year.

\$444,000 has been allocated to modernize the oleum-making and acid-concentrating facilities that are now being installed at the works. This \$5 million job started last summer, and involves the relocation of equipment that was used to make oleum during World War II at the now-dismantled Kentucky Ordnance Works near Paducah, Kentucky. The modernization is expected to improve the

operation and increase the production and efficiency of the oleum units. All of the foregoing work will be done by the Rust Engineering Company of Pittsburgh, which has been engaged in rehabilitation activities at the Kankakee Unit since early 1952. Supplements have been added to Rust's present contracts to cover the additional work.

IN ADDITION to the foregoing, \$50,000 has been allocated by the Ordnance Corps for alterations and additions to the water supply and pumping system, and \$170,000 to provide additional storage facilities made necessary by the plant's increased production. Included in the \$170,000 job is the construction of one new warehouse and the remodeling of several others.

The Chicago District Office of the Corps of Engineers, under whose supervision all of the above work will be done, is expected to ask for bids on the water system work and the storage facilities in the near future.

When all the present construction and rehabilitation jobs now going on or to be accomplished as above stated at the Kankakee Unit, (Estimated as the end of this year), more than \$25 million will have been invested there by the Army Ordnance Corps since reactivation of the plant was started late in 1950.